



**MITT ROMNEY**  
GOVERNOR

**KERRY HEALEY**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Division of Professional Licensure**  
239 Causeway Street • Boston, Massachusetts 02114

**JANICE S. TATARKA**  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS & BUSINESS  
REGULATION

**GEORGE K. WEBER**  
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

TO: Private Occupational Schools and Other Interested Parties  
FROM: Division of Professional Licensure; Massachusetts Department of Education  
RE: Licensure and Oversight of Private Occupational Massage Therapy Schools  
DATE: September 27, 2006

On June 29, 2006, Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2006 was enacted, which requires the Division of Professional Licensure to organize a Board of Registration of Massage Therapy (Board). The Board will be responsible for promulgating rules and regulations governing the licensure of massage therapists, facilities, and the operation of massage therapy schools. Currently, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 75D, private business schools that offer courses or programs in massage therapy are licensed by the Department of Education's Office of Proprietary Schools. Effective September 29, 2006, the Division of Professional Licensure will become responsible for the licensure and oversight of all schools offering massage therapy.

The Governor has not yet appointed a Board of Registration of Massage Therapy. Upon appointment, the first order of business will be to promulgate regulations for the licensing of massage therapy practitioners. Therefore, it may be quite some time before the Board's educational requirements are finalized. Until further notice the Department of Education, in agreement with the Division of Professional Licensure, will continue to license private business schools that provide massage therapy instruction.

**What does this mean for schools licensed by the Department of Education?**

It means business as usual, with the Department of Education continuing in its role of approving massage therapy courses, programs, and teachers, and licensing schools that offer massage therapy. Once the Board has adopted regulations for the oversight of schools that offer massage therapy such schools will no longer be licensed by the Department of Education.

The Division of Professional Licensure and the Department of Education are working closely to ensure that schools are kept informed about any changes in requirements and oversight to help ensure a smooth transition toward compliance with the new laws. The latest information will be posted on the Board's website, [www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/mt](http://www.mass.gov/dpl/boards/mt). If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Nemmers with the Division of Professional Licensure, or Mary Jayne Fay with the Department of Education's Office of Proprietary Schools.

